



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Public Safety Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
July 19, 2018
8:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Leon Davidoff (Chair), Shari Cantor, Chris Williams, Liam Sweeney, Beth Kerrigan (by phone), Chris Barnes (by phone)

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Vernon Riddick (Police Chief), Robert McCue (Assistant Police Chief), Gary Allyn (Fire Chief)

Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

Councilor Davidoff called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Staff Reports/Communications

- a. The committee accepted the June 7, 2018 meeting minutes.
- b. Town Manager Matt Hart provided updated the committee on recent activity. Mr. Hart and Chief Riddick went on a ride along with the police department. Mr. Hart will also be taking a ride along with the fire department in the coming days.

Mr. Hart updated the committee on the fire department study is underway. The Town has hired Fitch & Associates. The principal consultant is Steve Knight. Staff plans to have the firm on site the week of August 20th to meet with the committee and full council.

Mr. Hart stated the competitive recruitment for Chief Allyn is in the early stages. He will keep the committee informed on the progress of the search.

3. Police Department Update

Chief Riddick and Assistant Chief McCue updated the committee on recent police activity, including 12 fatal overdoses, the assault of a minor at Wolcott

Park, and the fighting disturbance at Beachland Park. There have been 2 commercial burglaries, and a significant motor vehicle accident on New Park. The department has seen an uptick in solicitors and panhandlers, which is attributed to warmer weather. There has been a road rage report and public indecency since last month. The department had its telephone number spoofed recently.

There is also developing information at Conard Hall regarding a potential threat. More information will be shared as it is made

Regarding personnel, the department is reviewing its hiring policies. The department is working to streamline its process and recruit certified officers. There are currently 13 vacancies. 30 officers are approaching retirement within the next year. 4 officers have completed the academy and are in field training.

4. Fire Department Update

Chief Allyn distributed a handout capturing fire activity since the last meeting. Department activity has been standard, with nothing notable outside of call volume. He discussed the department's administering of NARCAN, which does not constitute an opioid overdose.

He updated the committee on the radio system. The agreement has been signed and will be moving soon. The Stanley Golf Course site is waiting on a communication from Verizon. The goal is to have everything in place before fall. The department has all of the equipment necessary, stored in Manchester, and installation has commenced.

Regarding the fire study, the data collection process will begin shortly and include virtual storage across Town departments and AMR.

The committee will be updated on the paramedic billing at its September meeting.

Chief Allyn discussed personnel updates. The new Assistant Chief, Greg Priest, will start on July 30th. The department has 13 vacancies. Interviews have occurred and provisional offers are forthcoming. Monique George, administrative assistant of the department, has retired after 32 years of Town service. HR has conducted a search.

5. Adjournment

The Public Safety committee scheduled for August 2, 2018 has been cancelled. The next meeting will include a presentation from the consultants of the fire study. Councilor Davidoff adjourned the meeting at 8:38 AM.